works on the Subansiri Lower Hydro Electric Project (2000 MW) of M/s. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) in Arunachal Pradesh/ Assam could not be started due to non-availability of formal forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The issue of formal forest clearance to the project, which is pending due to non-deposit of Net Present Value (NPV) amounting to Rs 350 crores by NHPC for the forest land involved, which is presently *sub-judice*.

PGCI Proposal to build power transmission line in Afghanistan

2321. SHRI B.J PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Grid Corporation of India propose to build power transmission line in the war-torn country Afghanistan;

(b) if so, details of the project,

(c) whether it does not involve any security risk, and

(d) if so, the proposed measures to ensure security for its workers?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Government of Afghanistan had requested Government of India for construction of a transmission line from Pul-E-Khumri to Kabul in Afghanistan for import of power from Uzbekistan Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has been entrusted with the work of survey and soil investigation for this transmission line.

(c) and (d) The required security arragement will be made by the Afghanistan authorities

Power subsidy

2322. SHRI EKANATH K THAKUR Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the power subsidy has become the single largest contributor of fiscal deficit in India;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that this has reduced the